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ART 34 ART 11

We claim:

1. A preparation comprising
 - (i) at least one diformate of the general formula
5 $\text{XH}(\text{COOH})_2$, where X = Na, K, Cs, NH_4 and
 - (ii) at least one short-chain carboxylic acid and/or at least one salt of the short-chain carboxylic acid and/or at least one ester of the short-chain carboxylic acid and/or at least one derivative of the short-chain carboxylic acid.
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2. A preparation as claimed in claim 1, wherein potassium diformate is employed as diformate.
3. A preparation as claimed in claim 1 and/or 2, wherein the compounds employed as short-chain carboxylic acid (ii) are selected from the group consisting of the acids and/or salts
15 and/or esters of formic acid, acetic acid, propionic acid, fumaric acid, salicylic acid, citric acid, lactic acid and/or tartaric acid.
4. A preparation as claimed in claim 1 and/or 2, wherein the short-chain carboxylic acid
20 employed is
 - (iii) benzoic acid and/or the salts of benzoic acid and/or esters of benzoic acid and/or derivatives of benzoic acid and/or the salts of benzoic acid derivatives and/or esters of benzoic acid derivatives.
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5. A preparation as claimed in at least one of the preceding claims, wherein sodium propionate is employed as (ii).
6. A preparation as claimed in at least one of the preceding claims, wherein the ratios by
30 weight of (i) to (ii) are between 0.01:1 and 1:0.01.
7. A preparation as claimed in at least one of the preceding claims in solid form, especially in the form of a powder, especially in the form of a powder having an average particle size of from 1 μm to 10 000 μm .
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8. A preparation as claimed in claim 6, which is in the form of a powder having an average particle size of from 10 μm to 5 000 μm .
9. A preparation as claimed in any of the preceding claims, which comprises further

ingredients and/or additives and/or carriers.

10. A process for producing preparations as claimed in claim 1, which comprises mixing (i) with (ii).
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11. A process as claimed in claim 10, wherein a solution of (i) and/or (ii) is mixed with a solution of (i) and/or (ii) and, where appropriate, the solvent(s) is(are) subsequently removed.
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12. A process as claimed in claim 10, wherein (i) and/or (ii) are mixed in the form of a melt with (ii) and/or (i).
13. A process for producing preparations as claimed in claim 1, in which
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- (i) at least one diformate is mixed where appropriate with further ingredients and/or additives,
- (ii) the mixture obtained in this way is coated with at least one short-chain carboxylic acid and/or at least one salt of the short-chain carboxylic acid and/or at least one ester of the short-chain carboxylic acid and/or at least one derivative of the short-chain carboxylic acid.
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14. A process for producing preparations as claimed in claim 1, in which
- (i) at least one short-chain carboxylic acid and/or at least one salt of the short-chain carboxylic acid and/or at least one ester of the short-chain carboxylic acid and/or at least one derivative of the short-chain carboxylic acid are introduced into a suitable apparatus where appropriate with the addition of further ingredients,
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- (ii) at least one diformate is added, where appropriate together with further ingredients and/or additives.
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15. A process for producing preparations as claimed in claim 1, in which at least one diformate is coated by desublimation of at least one short-chain carboxylic acid and/or at least one salt of the short-chain carboxylic acid and/or at least one ester of the short-chain carboxylic acid and/or at least one derivative of the short-chain carboxylic acid.
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16. A process for producing preparations as claimed in claim 1, in which
- (i) at least one diformate, where appropriate together with other ingredients and/or additives, is dispersed in at least one short-chain carboxylic acid and/or at least one salt of the short-chain carboxylic acid and/or at least one ester of the short-chain

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- carboxylic acid and/or at least one derivative of the short-chain carboxylic acid,
- (ii) emulsified in an aqueous solution of a protective colloid, preferably gelatin or/and gelatin derivatives or/and gelatin substitutes with the addition of one or more substances from the group of mono-, di- polysaccharides,
- 5 (iii) and subjected to a shaping by spraying and subsequent or simultaneous drying.
17. The use of a preparation as claimed in at least one of the preceding claims in premixes for animal feeds.
- 10 18. The use of a preparation as claimed in at least one of the preceding claims in feed additives and/or animal feeds, in particular for pigs, poultry and calves.
19. A process for producing a diformate-containing feed and/or feed additive, which comprises
- 15 (i) adding preparation as claimed in any of claims 1 to 9 to a premix,
- (ii) mixing the premix obtained in this way with the other ingredients of the feed and/or feed additive.
- 20 20. An animal feed comprising a preparation as claimed in at least one of the preceding claims.
21. The use of a preparation as claimed in at least one of the preceding claims as performance enhancer and/or growth promoter.
- 25 22. The use of a preparation as claimed in at least one of the preceding claims as acidifier.
23. The use of a preparation as claimed in at least one of the preceding claims as preservative.
- 30 24. The use of a preparation as claimed in at least one of the preceding claims as ensiling agent.
25. The use of a preparation as claimed in at least one of the preceding claims in fertilizers.